

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

By this amendment, FIG. 4 is amended to correct formal matters. Specifically, the reference numeral denoting the closure edge is changed from "24" to --14--. The lead line for reference numeral 28 is also extended to properly identify the protrusion 28 of the coupling piece 26. A replacement sheet is attached.

REMARKS

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claim 17. By this amendment, claims 1-21 are cancelled and new claims 22-38 are added to more clearly recite the features of the invention as well as to correct formal matters. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment places the application in condition for allowance. A notice indicating the same is respectfully solicited.

Drawings

As provided above, FIG. 4 is amended to correct formal matters. Specifically, the reference numeral denoting one of the closure edges is changed from "24" to --14-- so as to conform to the written description and other figures. The lead line for reference numeral 28 is also extended to properly identify the protrusion 28 of the coupling piece 26. A clean replacement sheet is attached.

Claim Rejections - §112, second paragraph

In the Office Action, claims 1-14 and 16-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-21 have been cancelled, thus rendering the foregoing rejection moot.

Claim Rejections - §102

Claims 1, 15 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Colton (US 2,944,662). Claims 1-7 and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohuchi (US 5,090,607). Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 8-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kenyon (US 5,497,882). Lastly, claims 1-3, 6, 11, 15, 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chow (US 5,036,975). Claims 1-21 are canceled by this amendment, thus rendering the rejections moot. For at least the following reasons, however, Applicant respectfully submits that these rejections are not applicable to new claims 22-38.

New claims 22-38 are added to more clearly recite the features of the invention. Specifically, claim 22 now recites "[a] tool holder for holding elongated knitting tools, the knitting tools being for use in a knitting machine, the tool holder comprising: a transport rail extending longitudinally, the transport rail including a back portion; a plurality of first

clamping legs extending at an angle from longitudinally extending edges of the back portion and being adapted to hold the knitting tools; and a plurality of slots disposed along each of the clamping legs, the slots being adapted to transversely receive the knitting tools and being further adapted to retain the knitting tools by frictional engagement, and wherein the slots are spaced relative to one another so as to define a pitch adapted to match a predetermined pitch defined by a plurality of needle channels in the knitting machine.” Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references teach at least the slots being “spaced relative to one another so as to define a pitch adapted to match a predetermined pitch defined by a plurality of needle channels in the knitting machine.”

Colton, for example, teaches a package including a box formed in two parts, a body 1 and a lid 2. A block 12 may be housed within the body 1 and the lid 2, and may support a group of “sinkers” in spaced parallel relationship with suitable parts of material extending between adjacent blades (see FIGS. 1, 2 and 4; column 2 lines 3-39). Colton lacks at least the slots being spaced relative to one another so as to define a pitch adapted to match a predetermined pitch defined by a plurality of needle channels in the knitting machine, as recited in new claim 22. None of the remaining cited references remedies this deficiency. Thus, none of the cited references anticipates or renders obvious the recited tool holder. Claims 23-36 depend from claim 22 and are, therefore, allowable for at least the same reasons.

New claim 37 recites “[a] tool holder for holding elongated knitting tools, comprising: a transport rail extending longitudinally, the transport rail including a back portion; a plurality of first clamping legs extending at an angle from longitudinally extending edges of the back portion and being adapted to hold together at least two parts of each of the knitting tools; and a plurality of slots disposed along each of the clamping legs, the slots being adapted to transversely receive the knitting tools and being further adapted to retain the knitting tools by frictional engagement; and a closure part having a plurality of second clamping legs adapted to abut the first clamping legs of the transport rail.” Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references teach at least “a plurality of first clamping legs extending at an angle from longitudinally extending edges of the back portion and being adapted to hold together at least two parts of each of the knitting tools” or “a closure part having a plurality of second clamping legs adapted to abut the first clamping legs of the transport rail.”

Colton, for example, lacks at least a plurality of first clamping legs extending at an angle from longitudinally extending edges of block 12 (see FIG. 2) as well as a closure part

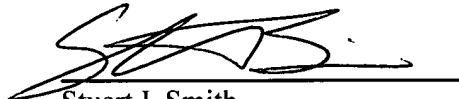
having a plurality of second clamping legs adapted to abut the first clamping legs of the transport rail. Likewise, Ohuchi fails to teach at least a closure part having a plurality of second clamping legs adapted to abut the first clamping legs of the transport rail. None of the remaining cited references remedies this deficiency. Thus, none of the cited references anticipates or renders obvious the recited tool holder. Claim 38 depends from claim 37 and is, therefore, allowable for at least the same reasons. Additionally, claim 38 is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as canceled claim 17, which was previously indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter (see page 5, ¶9 of the Office Action dated May 27, 2005).

Conclusion

Claims 22-38 are now pending and are believed to be allowable. Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing amendment places the application in condition for allowance. A notice indicating the same is respectfully requested. No fees are believed to be due for this amendment. Should any additional fees be required, please charge, or credit any overpayment to, Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by phone if it will expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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